



User Guide

Digital Living System™
VGX-XL3

SONY.

VAIO® VGX-XL3 Disclaimers, Notes, Warnings

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Chapter 1: Getting Started

Introduction

Welcome to the VAIO® VGX-XL3 Digital Living System™ (DLS) User Guide. You can download updated user guide information by opening VAIO® Help and Support and selecting Documentation. This guide contains the following information:

- Chapter 1: Getting Started
- Chapter 2: Setting Up Your VGX-XL3 DLS System
- Chapter 3: Hardware Upgrades & Maintenance
- Appendix A: Wireless Local Area Networks
- Appendix B: VAIO Media™ Software: Wireless Local Area Networks
- Appendix C: Setting Up Digital TV
- Appendix D: Hard Disk Drive Recovery
- Appendix E: RAID Configuration
- Appendix F: Troubleshooting

What is the VGX-XL3 Digital Living System?

The **VGX-XL3 DLS** system is a powerful computer designed with the livingroom and your digital entertainment needs in mind. Add a CD/DVD changer or other peripheral devices, and it becomes the host for a state of the art home entertainment system. Let the **VGX-XL3 DLS** system lead you into the exciting world of VAIO® where new technologies are established for digital content management.

Product Specifications

VGX-XL3 Personal Computer

For complete hardware specifications, go to VAIO® Help and Support and select Product Specifications. [[Start > All Programs > Help and Support](#)]

Operating System Software

The operating system for the VGX-XL3 Digital Living System™ is Microsoft® Windows® Media Center in Windows Vista™. VAIO value-added software provides you with additional features and PC capabilities and when teamed with Media Center, provides you with an even greater entertainment value.

Note: Even though the digital entertainment features of the VGX-XL3 computer are designed to work through Media Center, the features can also be accessed through independent software applications pre-installed on XL3 computer.

Microsoft® Windows® Media Center in Windows Vista™

The following list contains a high-level overview of the features available to you in Media Center. For in-depth information about each feature, go to the specific topic in the Media Center User Guide for Windows Vista document located on your computer in VAIO® Help and Support.

Feature	Description
Pictures + Video	Enjoy access to all the pictures and video stored on your hard drive. Categorize your pictures in as many folders as you wish. Then, select a group to view a single picture or a slide of all pictures in the folder. Organize, locate, view, and play your favorite video files in Media Center.
Music	Enjoy access to all the music stored on your hard drive. Organize, locate, and play your favorite music files in Media Center. Select only the music you want to burn to DVD.
TV + Movies	Take control of your TV or movie viewing experience. Watch live TV and movies, or record your favorite show for later viewing. Create DVDs from your favorite recorded TV series or movies. Select only the episodes you want to burn to DVD.
Tasks	<p>To enhance your entertainment experience, common tasks are grouped together that provide quick access to all of the Media Center including settings, shutdown, burn cd/dvd, sync, add extender, and media only.</p> <p>IMPORTANT: Sony® supports the lawful use of technology and does not endorse or encourage the use of our products for purposes other than those permitted by copyright law. TV programs and commercial DVDs that have been encrypted (protected) by the broadcaster cannot be copied and played back on any player other than the one recorded to.</p>

Sony® Original Software and Other Applications

Sony original software and other programs can be accessed by selecting Windows **Start > All Programs > [application name]**. For additional information about a specific application, start the application and go to the **Help** file for each software application.

Getting to know the VGX-XL3 DLS System

Unpacking the VAIO VGX-XL3 Personal Computer

See the fold-out sheet entitled “Getting to Know Your VGX-XL3 Digital Living System™” for supplied parts. Make sure you have the following items:

VGX-XL3 PC	Wireless Keyboard w/Integrated Pointing Device	
WLAN Antenna	Power Cord	Infrared Blaster Cable
HDMI™ Cable	Optical S/PDIF Cable	Keyboard Batteries (4)
Remote Batteries (2)	HDMI™ to DVI-D Adapter	

Keep all packaging material in case you need to move or ship the VGX-XL3 computer at a later time.

Wireless Keyboard



Setting up the Keyboard

Insert the Batteries

On the back of the Keyboard, remove the battery compartment cover and insert four (4) Alkaline AA batteries (supplied) in the battery compartment. Replace the battery compartment cover.

Activate Wireless Keyboard Communication

Before using the keyboard, you must activate communications between the DLS computer and the wireless keyboard w/integrated pointing device.

To activate wireless keyboard communications

Make sure there are no obstructions between the VGX-XL3 computer and the wireless keyboard when activating communications.

- 1 On the front of the keyboard, slide the Power switch to **On**.
- 2 On the back of the keyboard, slide the Point Device switch to **On**.
- 3 On the back of the keyboard, and the front panel of the VGX-XL3 computer, press the connect buttons simultaneously and hold for a few seconds.
- 4 Test the keyboard and the pointing device to make sure both are functioning properly.

VAIO® Remote Control

For detailed information on the VAIO Remote Control, go to Chapter 1 in the Media Center User Guide for Windows Vista document located on your computer in VAIO® Help and Support

Setting Up the Remote Control

- 1 Use the **START** button (large green button) to open Media Center. Press **STANDBY** (small green button) to place your computer in Standby mode. Control the playback for your media (**TV**, **MUSIC**, **VIDEOS**), and ends a slide show. Buttons include: **STOP**, **PAUSE**, **FWD**, **SKIP**, **REPLAY**, **REWIND**, and **RECORD**. The right arrow button serves as a **PLAY** button. Press the **BACK** (<=) button to go to the previous screen, and the **MORE** (i) button to view additional information.
- 2 Use the arrow buttons to move to a specific location, the **OK** button to make your selection.
- 3 Volume Controls are on the left (press + to increase or - to decrease) and **Channel/Page** on the right of the **MUTE** button. The **MUTE button** is provided to suppress sound.
- 4 Open the following screens **RECORDED TV**, **GUIDE**, **LIVE TV**, **DVD MENU**. (**DVD MENU** is available only when Media Center is active.)
- 5 Use these buttons to change channels and enter text or numbers in a specific location.
- 6 Use the **APPLICATION SELECT** button to switch among open applications (this button works the same as Alt+Tab keys on the keyboard). To close the active application window, select the **APPLICATION CLOSE** button.



Insert the Batteries

On the back of the remote control, remove the battery compartment cover and insert two (2) Sony® Super Manganese Alkaline batteries (supplied) in the battery compartment. Replace the battery compartment cover.

Note: When using the VAIO® remote control, remember to point the remote at the VGX-XL3 personal computer, not at the TV or monitor.

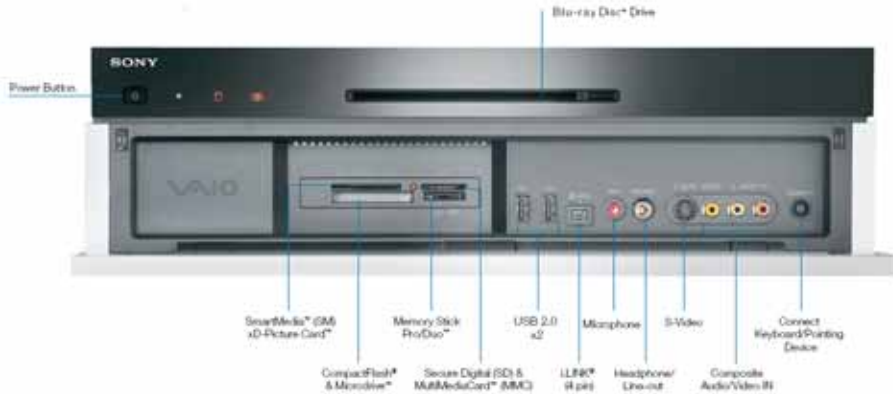
About the Keyboard and Remote Control Batteries

When replacing batteries, the remote and keyboard will use any alkaline batteries. Please use the "same" kind of new batteries from the same "manufacturer." Mixing new batteries and used batteries, and mixing different kinds of batteries (combination of manganese batteries and alkaline batteries, etc.) can cause "leaking and damage".

Help Hints

- Turn the POWER switch "OFF" if you will not be using the keyboard for a while. Also, please take the batteries out if you will not be using the keyboard for a long time.
- The capacity of the batteries in the keyboard can be checked using the battery indicator located on the upper right of the keyboard.
- Replace the batteries when they get low. If you leave the batteries in the device even when the batteries are dead, it may cause leaking.
- Replace with new batteries after cleaning the liquid when liquid leaks from the batteries.
- Use regular batteries. Re-chargeable batteries are not supported.
- Use alkaline batteries for the keyboard.

VGX-XL3 Personal Computer Front Panel



The VGX-XL3 Personal Computer Front Inputs and Outputs

Power Button

Press to turn on the power to this device. If you press this button during the operation of this device, it will enter a sleep state and the power lamp will change colors.

Power Lamp

The power lamp turns green when the electric power to this device is turned on. The power lamp blinks orange when it is in Away mode, and turn orange when it is in Standby mode.

(Hard Disk) Access Lamp

The access lamp blinks orange when you read or write data by accessing the hard disc.

WLAN (Wireless Lan lamp)

The wireless LAN lamp turns green when the wireless LAN¹ is ready to be used.

Blu-ray Disc™ Drive

The three different media formats to choose from are BD-R (Blu-ray Disc Recordable - recordable format for HD video recording and PC data storage), BD-RE (Blu-ray Disc Re-writable - rewritable format for HD video recording and PC data storage), and BD-ROM (Blu-ray Disc Read Only Memory - read only format for HD movies, music, software, games, etc.).

Eject button

Press when the disc is to be removed from the drive.

SmartMedia™ (SM) & xD-Picture Card™ memory card reader

Reads and writes data from and to SmartMedia or xD-Picture Card media.

Memory card access Lamp

It blinks orange when you read or write data from a "Memory Stick®", xD-Picture Card, Smart Media, Compact Flash, or SD/MMC memory card.

CompactFlash® & Microdrive™ memory card reader

Reads and writes data from and to CompactFlash and Microdrive media.

Memory Stick Pro™/Memory Stick Duo™

Data from the "Memory Stick®" is read and written.

Secure Digital (SD) & MultiMediaCard™ (MMC) memory card reader

Data from the SD or MMC memory card is read and written.

USB (Universal Serial Bus) Connector (x2)

Connects to a device which supports the USB standard.

The connector supports the USB 2.0 standard and can also be connected to a device which supports the USB 1.1 standard.

i.LINK®² S400 port (IEEE 1394 connector (4 pin))

Connects to an i.LINK® supported device.

S-VIDEO (S video input)

Connection for an S-Video cable.

Composite Audio/Video IN

Connection for an Audio/Video cables.

Connect Keyboard/Pointing Device

Use this button when activating the wireless keyboard/pointing device.

1. Requires compatible wireless access point(s). Some features may rely on Internet services which may require a fee.

2. i.LINK is a trademark of Sony used only to designate that a product contains an IEEE1394 connection. The i.LINK connection may vary depending on the software applications, operating system and compatible i.LINK devices. All products with an i.LINK connection may not communicate with each other. Please refer to the documentation that comes with any device having an i.LINK connection for information on compatibility, operating conditions and proper connection. For information on any Sony device having an i.LINK connection, contact Sony at 1-800-686-7669.

Using Memory Cards and Memory Card Readers

This section provides basic information about using your computer's installed memory card readers and includes the following information:

- About Your Memory Card Readers
- About Memory Stick® Media
- Inserting a Memory Card
- Removing a Memory Card
- Sharing Memory Cards

About Your Memory Card Reader

Your VAIO® computer is equipped with memory card readers that are compatible with many popular types of memory cards. You can use your computer's memory card readers to transfer data between digital cameras, camcorders, music players, and other audio/video devices.

Supported Memory Card Readers and Compatible Media

Smart Media™



xD-Picture Card™



Secure Digital (SD)



MultiMediaCard™



Compact Flash®



Microdrive™



Memory Stick Duo™



Memory Stick®



Memory Stick Pro™



About Memory Stick Media

Memory Stick® media are a compact, portable, and versatile data storage media designed for exchanging and sharing digital data with compatible devices. The following types of Memory Stick® media are available, but compatibility with your computer can vary.

- **MagicGate™ Memory Stick® Media** - Provides copyright protection with authentication and encryption, using Sony® MagicGate technology. Authentication ensures that protected content is only transferred between compliant devices and media. Protected content can be recorded and transferred in an encrypted format that prevents unauthorized duplication or playback. You can store different data formats on a single Memory Stick media.
- **Memory Stick Pro™ media** - Provides MagicGate copyright protection and high-speed data transfer features when used with compatible Memory Stick PRO devices. VAIO® computers support Memory Stick PRO media for data storage purposes only. High-speed data transfer and MagicGate technology features, such as authentication and encryption, may not be available. You can store different data formats on a single Memory Stick media.
- **Memory Stick Pro Duo™ media** - Provides the same features and benefits of Memory Stick PRO™ media, in a form that is 1/3 smaller in size.
- **Memory Stick® media** - Provides data storage only. The Memory Stick media does not provide MagicGate technology or high-speed data transfer. You can store different data formats on a single Memory Stick media.
- **Memory Stick Duo™ media** - Provides the same features and benefits of MagicGate™ Memory Stick media, in a form that is 1/3 smaller in size.

Compatibility between software programs and Memory Stick® media formats may vary. At this time, Sony suggests using only MagicGate Memory Stick media to store and transfer any data created with SonicStage® software.

Visit the Sony online support Web site at <http://www.sony.com/pcsupport> regularly for the latest information on Memory Stick® media.

Note: Memory Stick media do not support AVI file playback directly from the media. Copy the video file to your hard disk drive and then play back the file.

Inserting a Memory Card

The memory card reader(s) are located behind a protective cover on the front of the computer. To access the Memory Card Readers, flip the front cover down.

▶ To insert Memory Cards

- 1 From the front panel, locate the appropriate reader(s) for the memory card(s) you want to use.
- 2 Insert the memory card into the reader, in the direction indicated of the arrow on the media. Do not force the card into the reader

Note: If the memory card does not go in easily, gently remove the card and verify you are entering the card in the proper direction.

▶ To Protect data on Memory Stick® Media

Some Memory Stick® media are equipped with a write-protect tab. The write protect tab prevents accidental changes to information recorded on your Memory Stick media. When you slide the write-protect tab to the **LOCK** position, your Memory Stick® media is write-protected. You cannot delete, copy, or save information on the media while the write-protect tab in the **LOCK** position. When you slide the tab to the **un-LOCK** position, you can write to or modify your Memory Stick media's contents.

▶ Locking the Memory Stick®

If your computer stops recognizing your Memory Stick® media, you may have removed the media from the Memory Stick drive before the data access process completed. If this occurs, follow these steps:

- 1 Remove the Memory Stick® media from the slot.
- 2 Shut down your computer, closing any open software programs, and then turn your computer off.
- 3 Wait approximately 30 seconds, and then restart your computer.

Your computer recognizes the Memory Stick® media, when you insert it into the Memory Stick slot again.

Removing a Memory Card

The correct way to remove a memory card from a memory card reader varies, depending upon the media, reader, or computer model. Use care when removing a memory card to avoid damage to the reader or card.

Note: Do not remove a media card while the media access indicator light is on. The card or its data may be damaged.

▶ **To remove a Memory Stick® media, Secure Digital (SD), MultiMediaCard™, SmartMedia™, or xD-Picture Card™ media**

- 1 Firmly grasp the extended part of the memory card.
- 2 Pull to remove it.

▶ **To remove a CompactFlash® media**

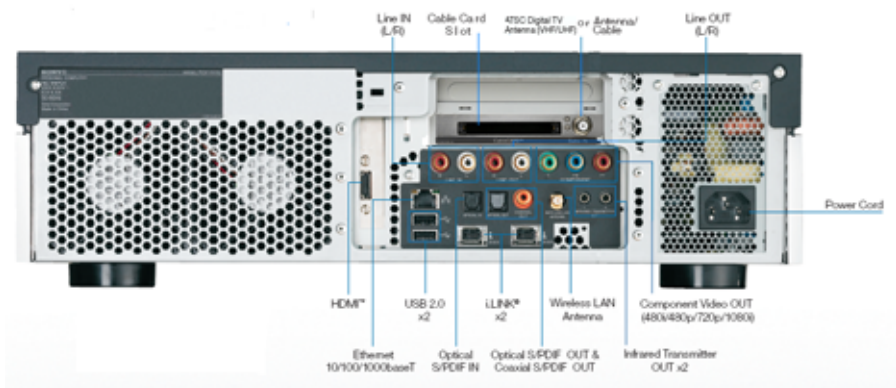
- 1 Firmly grasp the extended part of the memory card.
- 2 Pull to remove from the reader.

Sharing Memory Cards

If you plan to share your memory card between your VAIO® computer and devices such as a digital camera or music player, the card must be formatted properly. Follow the steps below to format your memory card.

- 1 Format the memory card by using it in the device first. See the information supplied with the device for details how to format the memory card.
- 2 If your device does not recognize memory card that has been formatted by your computer, so the following:
 - Save the card's contents to your hard disk drive.
 - Reformat the memory card using the device, not your computer.

VGX-XL3 Personal Computer Back Panel



The VGX-XL3 Personal Computer Back Inputs and Outputs

Line IN (L/R)

Connection for an external audio device.

Cable Card Slot

Connection for a cable card (supplied by your cable service provider).

ATSC Digital TV Antenna (VHF / UHF) or Antenna/Cable

Connection for over-the-air digital antenna, connection for cable provider, or external analog UHF/VHF antenna.

Line OUT (L/R)

Connection for an external audio device.

HDMI™

Connection for HDMI cable for high definition video and/or sound for TV.

Ethernet 10/100/1000baseT

Connection for a 10BASE-T/100BASE-TX/1000BASE-T Ethernet.

(The port marked with the Network symbol is for LAN connections only.)

USB 2.0 (x2) Universal Serial Bus

Connects to a device which supports the USB standard.

The connector supports the USB 2.0 standard and can also be connected to a device which supports the USB 1.1 standard.

Optical S/PDIF IN

Connection for Audio In.

i.LINK®¹ (x2)

Your VAIO® computer is equipped with one 4-pin (front panel) and two 6-pin (back panel) i.LINK® ports. A 4-pin i.LINK port cannot supply power to a connected i.LINK® device. A 6-pin i.LINK port can supply power (10V to 12V) to a connected i.LINK® device, if the device is equipped with a 6-pin connector.

Optical S/PDIF OUT & Coaxial S/PDIF OUT

Connections for Audio Out.

Wireless LAN Antenna

Connection for the supplied Wireless LAN Antenna.

Infrared Transmitter OUT (x2)

Controls VCR, Cable or Satellite Set-top box, and other devices in MCE. One infrared transmitter is supplied.

Component Video OUT (480i, 480p, 720p, 1080i)

Connections for Video Out.

Power Cord

Connection for supplied power cord.

1. i.LINK is a trademark of Sony used only to designate that a product contains an IEEE1394 connection. The i.LINK connection may vary depending on the software applications, operating system and compatible i.LINK devices. All products with an i.LINK connection may not communicate with each other. Please refer to the documentation that comes with any device having an i.LINK connection for information on compatibility, operating conditions and proper connection. For information on any Sony device having an i.LINK connection, contact Sony at 1-800-686-7669.

Support Resources.

VAIO® Help and Support

VAIO Help and Support provides you with a single location for all of your support needs and allows you to easily access valuable support and technical information from Sony® and Microsoft®.



Keep your VAIO computer's system software and operating system updated using **VAIO Web Support** and **Microsoft Update**.

Note: You must be connected to the Internet to access some of the VAIO Help and Support features.

Please carefully review all support options in **VAIO Help and Support**.

To access VAIO® Help and Support

- 1 Using your wireless keyboard w/integrated pointing device, select the Windows **Start** button.
- 2 From the Start menu, select **All Programs**.
- 3 From the All Programs menu, select **VAIO Help and Support**.

Note: To access the most updated information available for the VGX-XL3 Digital Living System, periodically go to **VAIO Help and Support > Manuals and Specifications** and select the **VGX-XL3 User Guide**. This guide will be updated on an ongoing basis for your convenience.

Documentation

The following support documents for the VAIO VGX-XL3 Digital Living System™ are available in VAIO Help and Support.

Online User Guide: The online user guide is designed to provide you with detailed information about the VGX-XL3 Digital Living System product.

Note: The Online User Guide will be updated on an ongoing basis for your convenience. Please return to VAIO Help and Support > Manuals and Specifications periodically to download updated User Guide information.

Online Media Center User Guide. The online user guide is designed to provide you with detailed information about how to use your VGX-XL3 Digital Living System with Microsoft® Media Center in Windows Vista™. Also, see Appendix C in the User Guide for Media Center setup information.

Online VAIO Recovery Center User Guide: The online user guide is designed to provide you with detailed information about how to restore your VGX-XL3 Digital Living System to the original factory settings, and reinstall specific factory-installed software applications and drives. Also, see Appendix D in the User Guide for general and support information for system recovery.

Online RAID Systems User Guide: The online user guide provides an overview of RAID disc arrays and various RAID levels that can be configured with your VGX-XL3 Digital Living System product. Also, see Appendix E in the User Guide for general and support information for RAID.

Safety Information

Carefully read the VGX-XL3 Safety Information Guide. The guide, in printed format, is contained in the packaging materials.

Additional Notes

The wireless LAN function

The wireless LAN¹ that comes equipped in this device is certified to comply with the "Wi-Fi specifications" under the provisions of the WFA (Wi-Fi Alliance.)

Security when using wireless LAN devices

It is very important to set up security on the wireless LAN.

Important Note: Sony will not be held responsible for damages resulting when security measures are not taken, or when security problems occur due to the circumstance outside of the wireless LAN specifications.

Refer to **Appendix A: Wireless Local Area Network** in this guide for more details.

Copy protection

You can not use this device for recording of content for other than your personal enjoyment without the copyright holders permission under the copyright law.

It is necessary to obey the copyright law and permitted usage conditions for each copyrighted work and for making multiple copies of copyrighted works. It is prohibited to make copies or use, change, delete or make other revisions to or alter the integrity of captured video, images, or audio without the copyright owners permission.

Summary

Chapter 1: Getting Started provided you with an overview of the VGX-XL3 Digital Living System™ including hardware, operating system, and additional value-added VAIO® software.

1. Requires compatible wireless access point(s). Some features may rely on Internet services which may require a fee.



Chapter 2: Setting Up the VGX-XL3 System

Before You Begin

Before setting up your VGX-XL3 Digital Living System™ (DLS), consider the environment in which it will be placed. Listed below are some general guidelines.

- The maximum distance between VGX-XL3 computer and the keyboard can be up to 30 ft.
- Placing the keyboard near a metallic object may affect communication between the keyboard and the computer.
- Do not set up the VGX-XL3 DLS in the following locations:
 - in direct sunlight
 - near a magnet or a item that generates a magnetic field
 - areas with high heat, such as near a heater
 - areas with excessive heat, dust, and humidity
 - areas with poor ventilation

Please observe the following items to avoid damage.

- Always turn off the power before the device is moved. Damage may be caused to the hard disk if the device is transferred or moved with the power on.
- Do not tip or hit this device. Even a small impact or vibration may cause some damage to your hard disk.
- Do not set up where it is not secure.
- Do not place an object over the ventilation holes.
- If the VGX-XL3 computer is placed in an enclosed entertainment cabinet, make sure there is sufficient airflow.

Step 1: Connecting the VGX-XL3 Computer and a CD/DVD Changer/Recorder

If you have purchased a Sony® VGP-XL1B3 changer, connecting the changer to the computer is a simple process requiring only a single cable.

Using the supplied i.LINK®¹ cable, connect the end without the node to an i.LINK® connector on the back panel of the XL3 computer, and the end with the node to an i.LINK connector on the back panel of the changer.

Use the supplied disc that comes with the VGP-XL1B3 changer to install and load the operating software updates for proper operation with the VGP-XL1B3.

Step 2: Connecting your TV

You can receive analog and digital TV signal transmissions using with the following connections:

HDMI™ Connector

If your TV has a HDMI™ connector, use the supplied HDMI cable and connect one end to your TV and the other end to the HDMI connector on the back panel of the DLS computer.

DVI-D Connector

If your TV has a DVI connector, use the supplied HDMI cable and the HDMI to DVI-D adapter. Insert the adapter into the TV/monitor. Then using the supplied HDMI cable, connect one end of the cable to the adapter and the other end to the HDMI connector on the back panel of the VGX-XL3 computer.

Component Connectors (Y, Pb, Pr)

If your TV has component connectors, use a component video cable (not supplied) and connect one end to the corresponding video outputs on your TV

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and on the back panel of the VGX-XL3 computer. In this type of connection, there will be separate audio connections.

Additional Notes:

- If your TV has a HDMI™ connector and a DVI connector, Sony® recommends using the HDMI connector.
- The HDMI cable carries both video and audio signals.
- You cannot use HDMI and Component Video connections at the same time.
- If device drivers other than the ones provided by Sony are used, the image may not be displayed and the audio may not be heard. Always use the device drivers provided by Sony for any updates.
- You can connect the HDMI to an A/V receiver/amp and audio will be heard through the AV amp and then another HDMI cable can be connected from the AV amp to the TV for the display. (Some protected video content may not display with this type of connection. A direct connection is advised.)

VHF/UHF Connector (for Receiving Digital TV Transmission)

If you have an antenna for receiving the over-the-air signals transmitted by a digital TV broadcasting system, you can connect it to receive these signals for digital televisions, for example high definition TVs. Refer to the “Connecting to an Antenna (air) for Digital Television System (ATSC Signal Standard)” in the next section for more information.

Additional TV Connections

Note: Your VAIO® VGX-XL3 computer is supplied with certain video cables. Depending on your in home cable access, you may require extra cables, adapters or connection equipment not supplied with your computer..

TV Signal Sources

You can connect your VGX-XL3 to receive TV signals from various TV signal sources:

- Standard cable access
- Cable access with a cable provider subscription service through a CableCARD™ (CableCARD not supplied with VGX-XL3).
- Cable access with a cable provider subscription service through a cable or satellite set-top box (set-top box not supplied with VGX-XL3).

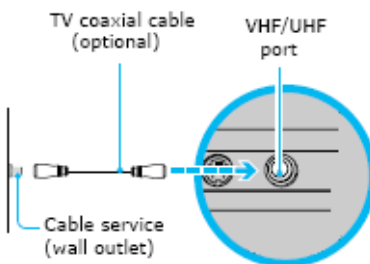
- Antenna (air) for Digital Television System (ATSC Signal Standard).
- Standard antenna (air) system (NTSC Signal Standard).

Connecting to standard cable access (CATV)

Note to CATV System Installer: Follow the 820-93 section of the National Electric Code which provides guidelines for proper grounding and in particular, specify that the coaxial cable shield is connected to the grounding of the building, as close to the point of cable entry as practical.

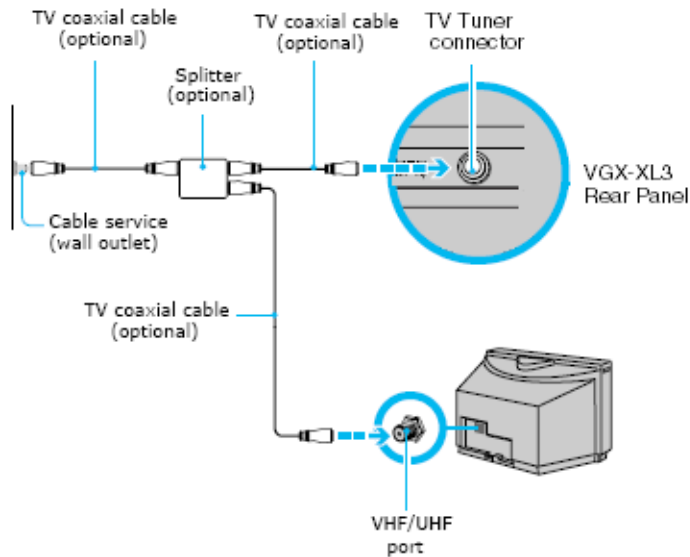
Option 1

- 1 Connect one end of the TV coaxial cable (not included) to your cable service access.
- 2 Connect the other end of the TV coaxial cable to the VHF/UHF port on the back panel of your computer.



Option 2

- 1 Connect one end of a TV coaxial cable to your cable service access. Connect the other end to the single-connection side of a splitter adapter.
- 2 Connect a second TV coaxial cable (not included) to the double-connection side of the splitter adapter. Connect the other end to the VHF/UHF port on the back panel of your computer.
- 3 Connect a third TV coaxial cable (not included) to the double-connection side of the splitter adapter. Connect the other end to the VHF/UHF port on the back of your TV monitor or display.



Connecting a CableCARD™

You can connect a your VGX-XL3 to a cable subscription service requiring a CableCARD. The CableCARD inserts into the CableCARD slot located on the rear of your VGX-XL3.

Note: Because a CableCARD™ is usually specific to a cable service provider, we recommend that your cable service provider supply the CableCARD and install it.

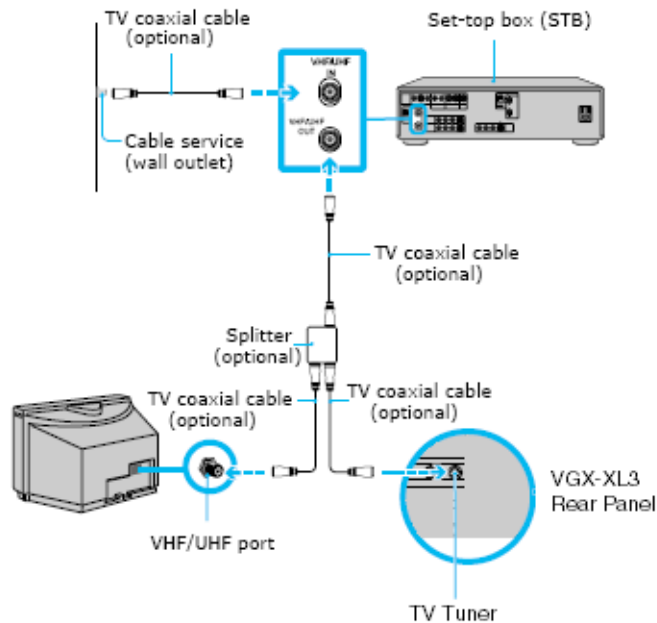
Connecting a Cable or Satellite Set-top Box

You can connect your computer to cable or satellite service that requires a set-top box.

Option 1

- 1 Connect one end of a TV coaxial cable (optional) to your cable service access. Connect the other end to the In jack on the back panel of your set-top box.
- 2 Connect a second TV coaxial cable (optional) to the Out jack on your set-top box. Connect the other end to the single-connection end of a splitter adapter (optional).

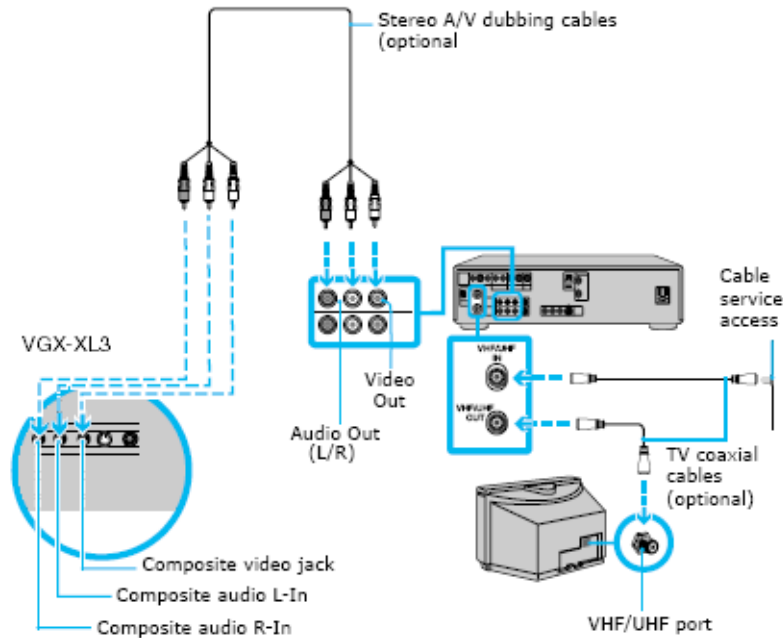
- 3 Connect a third TV coaxial cable (optional) to the double-connection end of the splitter adapter. Connect the other end to the VHF/UHF port on the back panel of your computer.
- 4 Connect a fourth TV coaxial cable (optional) to the double-connection end of the splitter adapter. Connect the other end to the VHF/UHF port on the rear of your TV monitor or display.



Option 2

- 1 Connect one end of the TV coaxial cable (optional) to your cable service access. Connect the other end to the In jack on the back panel of your set-top box.
- 2 Connect a second TV coaxial cable (optional) to the Out jack on your set-top box. Connect the other end to the VHF/UHF port on the rear of your TV monitor or display.
- 3 Connect one end of a stereo A/V dubbing cable with triple RCA plugs (optional) to the Video-Out and Audio-OUT (L/R) jacks on the back panel of your set-top box, matching the plug and jack colors.

- 4 Connect the other ends of the stereo A/V dubbing cable into the Audio Input-L, Audio Input-R, and Video Input jacks on the back panel of your computer, matching the plug and jack colors.



Connecting to an Antenna (air) for Digital Television System (ATSC Signal Standard)

You can connect to receive over-the-air signals that meet the Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC) Signal standard intended for digital televisions, for example high definition TVs.

ATSC is the group that helped to develop the new digital television standard for the United States and other countries. It is intended to replace the earlier analog-type television system standard and produce wide screen 16:9 images up to 1920×1080 pixels in size—more than six times the display resolution of the analog standard. However, a host of different image sizes are supported, so up to six standard-definition “virtual channels” can be carried in a single broadcast. ATSC also boasts “theater quality” audio because it uses the Dolby Digital (AC-3) format to provide “5.1” surround sound. Numerous auxiliary data services can also be provided.

Refer to Appendix C for setting up digital TV functionality using Microsoft® Media Center.

Connecting to a Standard Antenna (air) System

You can connect your computer to an indoor/outdoor antenna system, using Option 1 or 2 from the previous section, “Connecting to standard cable access (CATV).” The antenna system in your home may require a VHF/UHF RF combiner/transformer (optional) to connect your computer and the indoor/outdoor antenna system.

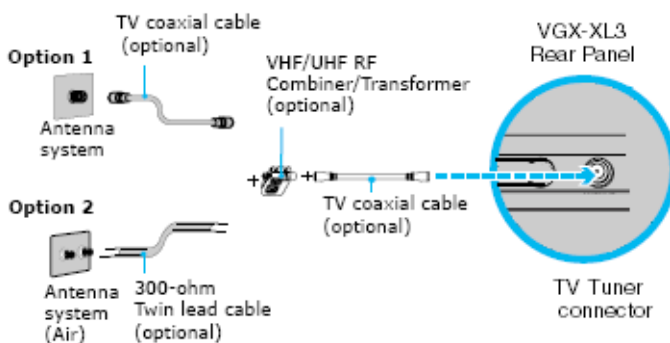
Option 1

- 1 Connect one end of a TV coaxial cable (not included) to your antenna outlet. Connect the other end to a VHF/UHF RF combiner/transformer (optional).
- 2 Connect a second TV coaxial cable (not included) from the combiner/transformer to the VHF/UHF port on the back panel of the VGX-XL3 Computer.

Option 2

- 1 Connect both ends of the antenna's twin lead cable to the screw-type grips on the combiner/transformer.
- 2 Connect the TV coaxial cable (not included) from the combiner/transformer to the VHF/UHF port on the back panel of your computer.

If you are connecting to an indoor/outdoor antenna system, you may need to re-orient the antenna for better reception.



Step 3: Connecting your Home Theater / Speakers

Two-channel sound system

If your sound system has two channels, use the LINE OUT (L) (R) on the back panel of the DLS computer and the LINE IN composite audio connectors on your speakers/receiver.

More than two-channel sound system

If your sound system has more than two channels, use the supplied optical S/PDIF cable and connect one end to the S/PDIF OPTICAL OUT connector on the back panel of the DLS computer and the other end to the OPTICAL IN connector on your sound system. You can also use a coaxial S/PDIF connection when connecting a multi-channel sound system.

Additional Notes

- An optical/coaxial connection will provide a higher quality output than a composite connection.

Configuring software for your speaker system

When using a multiple channel speaker system, certain software programs require setting changes to make certain you have proper audio performance.

Your computer's factory default settings for audio can be changed using the Media Center Settings feature. You can switch between 2-channel, 6-channel, or S/PDIF output modes.

To change speaker settings, do the following:

This procedure will demonstrate how to set up 5.1 surround sound speakers. Your selections may differ depending on your type of speakers.

- 1 From the Media Center Start menu, select **Tasks > Settings > General > Windows Media Center Setup, Set Up Your Speakers**.

The Speaker Setup screen displays.



- 2 Select **Next**. Select the appropriate connection type. Your selection depends on the type of cable used to connect your 5.1 surround sound speakers. Select **Single RCA (digital)** for coaxial S/PDIF or **Toslink (digital)** for optical S/PDIF and HDMI. Then select **Next**.



3 The Choose number of Speakers screen displays.



4 Select **5.1 surround speakers**. The Speaker Connection Type screen displays.

5 Select **Next**.

6 From the Test Your Speakers screen, select the **Test** button. The system will test your speakers for sound.



Important: Then select **I heard sound from all my speakers**, even if you did not hear sound from all your speakers. The You Are Done! screen displays.

7 Select **Finish**.

▶ **To complete Speaker Setup, you need to verify some Windows® settings.**

1 Right-click the speaker icon in the Windows Notification Area and select **Playback Device**.

2 Depending on your computer system's digital sound output configuration, select **Digital Output Device (S/PDIF and HDMI)**, **Digital Output Device (HDMI)**, or **Digital Output Device (S/PDIF)**.

3 Click **Set Default**.

4 Click **Properties**.

5 Click the **Supported Formats** tab.

6 In the **Encoded formats** section, put a checkmark in the **Dolby Digital** box.

This setting works with Dolby Digital **and** DTS encoded surround soundtracks.

Note: Do not select DTS Audio as that setting only outputs 2-channel sound.

7 In the **Sample Rates** section, select a value that your A/V receiver or sound decoder device can handle. A value of 48.0 KHz is usually a good default setting.

8 Click the **Apply**, and then **OK**.

Step 4: Connecting to the Internet and Existing Wireless Network

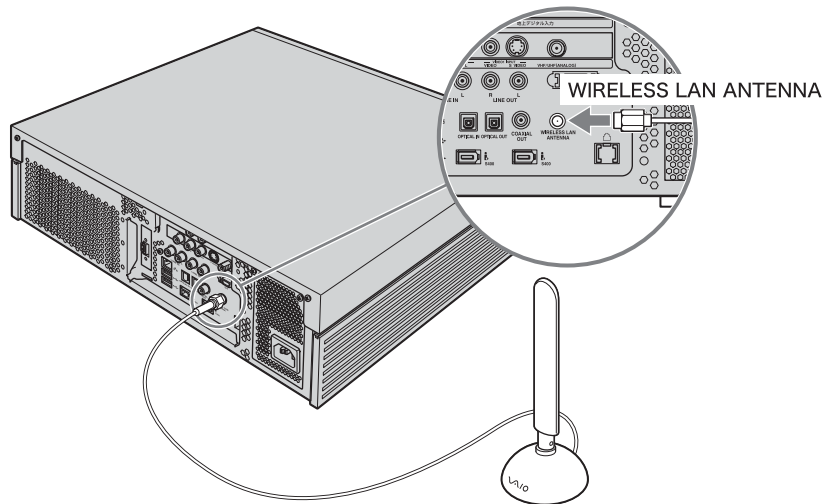
Wired Network

Use an RJ-45 cable. Connect one end to the Ethernet connector on the rear panel of the VGX-XL3 and the other end to your cable or DSL modem router.

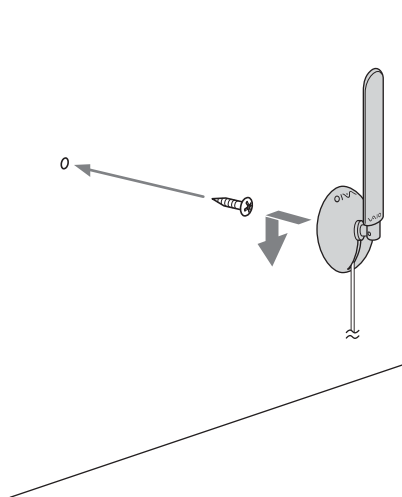
Start Media Center and from **Tasks > Settings**, go to **General > Windows Media Center Setup > Set Up Internet Connection**. Then follow the on-screen instructions.

Wireless Network

Connect the WLAN antenna (included) to the connector on the back panel of the VGX-XL3 computer.



For better reception, if needed, you may mount the wireless LAN antenna to a wall using the included screws.



Start Media Center and from **Tasks > Settings**, go to **General > Windows Media Center Setup > Join Wireless Network**. Then follow the on-screen instructions to set up your connection with your preferred Access Point.

For additional information about setting up a wireless LAN¹, go to Appendix A.

Step 5: Turning Power On

Make sure all hardware is connected and that power cables are plugged into properly grounded electrical outlets (three pronged outlets).

▶ **Turn on the power to the computer, TV, and speakers.**

Activate Wireless Keyboard Communication

- 1 From the front of the keyboard, slide the **Power** switch to **On**.
- 2 From the back of the keyboard, slide the **Pointing Device** switch to **On**.
- 3 From the back of the keyboard, and the front panel of the VGX-XL3 computer, **press the Connect buttons simultaneously** and hold for a few seconds.
- 4 Test the keyboard to make sure it is functioning properly.

Step 6: Software Setup

Microsoft Windows operating system setup

The first time you start your computer you will be presented with a series of screens for Microsoft® Windows Vista™ Setup. Please follow the on-screen instructions

Note: For information concerning Firewall, Automatic Updates, Virus Protection, and other security related features of Microsoft Windows Vista, see the Windows Help file.

Sony Registration

After you complete Microsoft Windows operating system setup, a Sony® Registration screen automatically appears. Please complete all requested information to register your Sony product.

Note: Registration can be done through the Internet. To register your product, go to <http://www.esupport.sony.com> and select Register from the menu bar.

Sony product registration is voluntary; failure to register will not diminish your limited warranty rights.

-
1. Requires compatible wireless access point(s). Some features may rely on Internet services which may require a fee."

Sony encourages you to complete the "VAIO® customer registration" in order for us to notify you with necessary information such as security information and provide full service/support to the customer who owns the VAIO product.

Software Setup Notes

- If Media Center automatically opens, and you need to adjust your picture quality, minimize Media Center and go to Step 7: Resolution Setup. When complete return to Media Center.
- Make sure your Internet connection is working properly.
- **Media Center Setup:** The first time Media Center starts, you will be presented with a series of screens that will guide you through Media Center Setup. Please follow all on-screen instructions.
- **Media Center Wireless Network:** If you have an existing wireless network, and you wish to add the VGX-XL3 computer to the network, start Media Center and from Settings, go to General > Media Center Setup > Join Wireless Network. Then follow all on-screen instructions.

Step 7: Resolution Setup

 **To set the resolution for your TV or monitor, do the following:**

- 1** Using the pointing device on your wireless keyboard, right click anywhere on the Windows desktop.
- 2** From the menu, point to or click **Personalize**.
A new menu option opens.
- 3** Click on the **Display Settings** option.
The Display Settings window appears.



- 4 From the resolution slider, choose a resolution that looks best for your TV or Monitor and click **Apply**. After selection, you will be prompted to click **Yes** to approve the change. If you see a blank screen after the selection, wait approximately 15 seconds until the old resolution is reset.

For High Definition televisions, the following HD resolutions are suggested:
720p:1176 x 664 or 1080i:1768 x 992.

- 5 Click **OK** when done selecting your optimum resolution.

Turning the Power Off

Please follow the following procedure when turning the power off to the VGX-XL3 computer.

- 1 Select the Windows **Start** button.
- 2 Click on **>** and then click on **Shut Down** to turn off.

In a short time the power to the VGX-XL3 computer goes off automatically and the power lamp changes color.

Note: If the power does not turn off by this procedure, you can turn the power off by holding down the Power button on the VGX-XL3 computer for more than six (6) seconds. **WARNING:** Any changes that have not been saved will be lost.

Power Saving Functions

The VGX-XL3 personal computer offers two power-saving function modes, Standby and Hibernation, which are used to reduce power consumption when not in use. The table below lists the characteristics of each function:

Power Lamp	Orange in color.
State	Reduces power consumption because it turns off the components other than the minimum components necessary while maintaining the current working status.
Enter Standby Mode	<p>The three ways to enter Standby Mode are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press the Standby key on the keyboard. • Click Standby in the computer screen which displays when selecting Start and then clicking on >. • Press the Standby button on the remote control.
Return to normal operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either press the Space key or the Standby key on the keyboard, or press the power button on the front of this device. • Press the Standby button on the remote control.
Hibernation State	
Power Lamp	Power lamp is off.
State	Main power is turned off and the fan for the internal main power section is paused. Saves the current working status to the hard disk and turns off the power for this device.
Enter Hibernate Mode	Click Hibernate which displays when selecting Start and then clicking on > .
Return to normal operation	<p>Press the Power button on the front of this device.</p> <p>Note: This device will not return to normal operation by remote control when in hibernation.</p>

Summary

Chapter 2: Setting Up Your VGX-XL3 Digital Living System™ provided you with step by step instructions about setting up the DLS system including the operating software.



Appendix A: Wireless Local Area Network

Overview

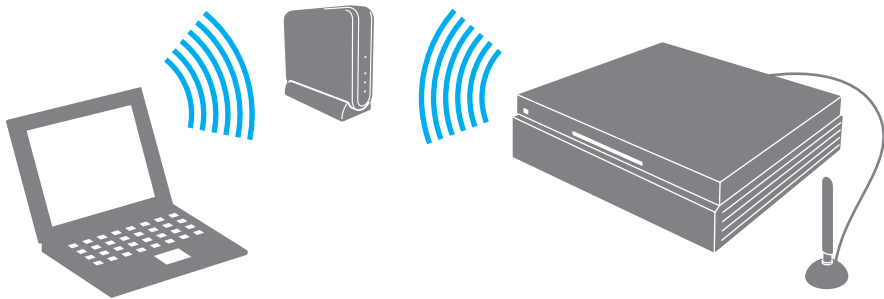
The Wireless LAN removes all of the trouble of cable connections and helps to build a wireless LAN (Local Area Network) environment.

This device is equipped with a 2.4 GHz wireless LAN¹ controller (IEEE802.11b/g compliant). IEEE802.11g is capable of higher speed communication than IEEE802.11b.

Note: 5 GHz wireless LAN (IEEE802.11a) technology and 2.4 GHz wireless LAN (IEEE802.11b/g) technology do not work together due to different frequencies.

There are two types of wireless LAN connection topologies:

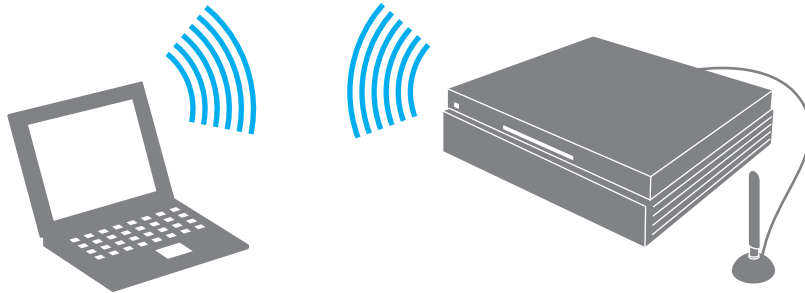
- **Infrastructure mode** which has a network structure based on a wireless LAN access point.



1. Requires compatible wireless access point(s). Some features may rely on Internet services which may require a fee.

When Infrastructure mode is used, you can enjoy the Internet and E-mail communications wherever a wireless access point is setup.

Ad hoc mode which connects computers directly without an access point.



Communicate Using Infrastructure Mode

Wireless LAN Access Point

Note: Make sure you have connected the Wireless LAN Antenna to the Wireless LAN Antenna connector located on the back panel of the VGX-XL3 computer.

This device and a wireless LAN access point (sold separately) can be connected using the following procedure. For details, please refer to Windows Help.

Further access point settings are required to connect to the Internet or a LAN, etc. at work via an access point. For details, please refer to the manual included with the access point you use.

▶ **To connect to an access point:**

- 1 Make sure the Wireless LAN option for the VGX-XL3 device is turned ON

Note: By default, the Wireless Connection function should be ON shown by the green wireless connection utility icon in the taskbar notification area. If not, click on the white wireless connection utility icon in the taskbar notification area and enable the Wireless LAN function(s).

- 2 Select the **Connect To** item from the Windows Start menu.

The Connect to a Network window appears. The window lists various things you can connect to. The wireless networks broadcasting within range of your VGX-XL3 are shown in the Wireless Network Connection area.

- 3 Choose a network from the list to highlight it.

4 Click **Connect**.

An attempt to connect to the network is made. You may see a warning telling you that the network is unsecured. This message is common for certain free wireless networks that don't require a password for connection. Click the Connect Anyway option to proceed.

Communicate Using Ad Hoc Mode

Wireless Ad Hoc Connection

If Ad Hoc mode is used (connecting directly to another computer), the wireless LAN devices can directly connect to each other without a wireless LAN access point. Set the first computer to Ad hoc mode and then connect the other computers to the first computer.

To create an Ad Hoc network

- 1 The Wireless Connection function should be ON as shown by the green wireless connection utility icon in the taskbar notification area. If not, click on the white wireless connection utility icon in the taskbar notification area and enable the Wireless LAN function(s).
- 2 Click Windows **Start** and then click **All Programs > Network**.
- 3 In the **Network** window, select **This computer is not connected to a network. Click to connect....**
- 4 Select **Connect to a Wireless Ad Hoc network** and follow the onscreen intructions to setup your preferred connection to another computer.

About network keys

This is a data key for encrypting the wireless LAN communication between IEEE802.11b/g devices. This is also called a Private Key, Encryption Key or WEP Key.

This enables the wireless LAN communication only between the wireless LAN access points and computers which use same key information.

The network key is pre-set in each access point (please confirm that the network key setting is changed after purchasing to prevent illegal usage). If you don't know the network key, please refer to the manual that came with the access point or check with the access point administrator.



Appendix B: VAIO Media Software: Local Area Networks

VAIO Media™ software expands digital entertainment possibilities by delivering your music, video, and still image files to any computer on your home network, located anywhere in your home! Set up one of the VAIO® computers on your home network to act as a media server, then get ready to share the fun and memories with your family and friends.

- VAIO Media Software Overview
- VAIO Media Software System Requirements
- Setting Up a Client Computer
- Preparing Your Multimedia Content
- Starting VAIO Media Console
- Using VAIO Media
- Using an Analog Device for Video Playback

Overview

VAIO Media software makes it possible to share music, video, and photos with other VAIO computers on your wired or wireless network. Set up one or more computers on your network as media servers and install the VAIO Media client software on the other computers. The computers with the VAIO Media client software installed can access multimedia content stored on the VAIO Media server computers.

VAIO Computer Network



The VAIO® computer that is designated as the media server can store and deliver:

- **Music files** — Supporting music files in MP3, WAV, OpenMG™ (ATRAC3®), and WMA formats. Use SonicStage® or SonicStage® Mastering Studio™ software to create music playlists to share on your network. Music files in MP3, WAV, and WMA formats can be placed in folders and registered to the VAIO Media Server. The network's client computers can access these music files.
- **Video files** — Supporting Video Capsule files created by Giga Pocket® software and TV programs recorded with Media Center. Video files in DV-AVI, MPEG, MPEG2, DIVX, and WMV formats can be placed in folders and registered to the VAIO Media™ Server. The network client computers can access these video files

Note: A DIVX encoder program must be installed on your computer, to enable playback of files in DIVX format.

- **Still image files** — Supporting picture files in JPEG, GIF, BMP, PNG, and TIFF formats. Still images can be placed in folders and registered to the VAIO Media Server. The network client computers can access these network files.
- **Analog stream** — VAIO computers equipped with Media Center can stream an analog signal from a connected analog device, such as a VCR, through the TV server.

About Microsoft® Windows® Media Center in Windows Vista™

Your new VAIO® computer has the Microsoft Windows Vista Home Premium operating system installed that contains Media Center functionality. When you start the Media Center software program for the first time, the Media Center setup process starts. Adjust the default settings before opening VAIO Media™ software on client and server computers.

See the [Media Center User Guide for Windows Vista](#), included on your PC in Help and Support, and from this user guide, [Chapter 1: Getting Started](#), the section titled [Microsoft Windows Media Center in Windows Vista](#) for additional information about setting up Media Center and its features.

VAIO Media™ Software System Requirements

You can open VAIO Media software on the server computer(s), register client computers to the server(s), and then share multimedia content between the network computers.

Server requirements

- The VAIO Media server requires VAIO computers running Microsoft Windows Vista Home Premium operating system.
- Connect the server and client computers through a wired network with ethernet cables or a wireless local area network (WLAN).

Client requirements

- All client computers must be VAIO computers running Microsoft XP, Windows Vista Home Premium, or Microsoft Windows Vista Ultimate operating systems. VAIO Media software is not supported by other computers or environments.
- All client computers must be connected to the same network with a server using a router, ethernet cables, or a wireless LAN. Configure each client to use a router or an access point on the network.
- All client computers must have VAIO Media software, version 2.0 or later, installed before attempting to register.

Network requirements

The VAIO Media™ software network must meet one of the following network requirements:

- Use the Ethernet capability that is built into the VAIO® computer (10BASE-T/100BASE-TX/1000BASE-T).
- Use a wireless LAN interface:
 - IEEE 802.11a (recommended for music, image, and video files)
 - IEEE 802.11g (recommended for music, image, and video files)
 - IEEE 802.11b (recommended for music and images files)

Note: IEEE 802.11b is not recommended for video files due to bandwidth constraints.

Setting Up a Client Computer

From the server, copy and distribute the VAIO Media™ installer file to the client computers.

To copy and distribute the installer file

- 1 Click **Start** on the Windows taskbar, and point to **All Programs**.
- 2 Point to **VAIO Media**, and click **Install VAIO Media to other VAIO PCs**. The Enjoying Music, Photos, and Video on Other VAIO computers window appears.

Enjoying Music, Photos, and Video on Other VAIO Computers

Installing VAIO Media on a computer allows you to listen to music, view photos, or watch video on the server, or watch television through your network.

- **Operating environment**

Operation of VAIO Media is only guaranteed on Sony VAIO series computers running preinstalled versions of Windows XP. Other operating environments are not supported.

- **How to view this page**

View this page with Internet Explorer 6.0 or later.

Obtaining the Installer

1. **Click Get Installer below.**
A dialog box appears.
2. **Click Save.**
A dialog box appears where you can specify the save destination of the installer.
3. **Specify the location where you want to save the installer.**
4. **Click Save.**
The installer is saved in the specified location.
5. **Copy the installer to CD-R, "Memory Stick", or other storage media compatible with the computer where you want to copy the installer.**
For details about the types of compatible storage media and copy methods, refer to the appropriate documentation.

 Get Installer

3 Click Get Installer. A file download message box appears.

4 Click Save. Save the file, **VM31Inst.exe**, to a blank storage media, such as a CD-R, CD-RW or Memory Stick® media, to transfer and set up the installer program on each client computer.

Note: The VM31Inst.exe is 23 MB in size. Verify your storage media's capacity before attempting to save the program.

Register a client computer

Your server computer must be turned on during client registration to enable the registration of each client computer. You can register only one client at a time. If more than one client computer is actively seeking registration, the server computer recognizes all registration requests. (A message appears to notify of multiple registration requests.) You must restart the registration process for each client.

Begin the client computer registration process after you have installed the **VM31Inst.exe** file to the client.

To register a client computer

- 1** Save the installer program to the client computer, and then double-click to open and install it.

Follow the on-screen instructions on each screen.

Preparing Your Multimedia Content

You can use pre installed Sony® software programs to prepare your multimedia content for sharing across the network using VAIO Media™ software.

To prepare your multimedia content

VAIO Media Console™ software can manage different media server features to deliver various file formats.

- **VAIO Media Music Server™** software delivers music files — Use SonicStage® or SonicStage Mastering Studio™ software to create playlists of music files. The VAIO Media Music Server software automatically makes these playlists and other music files stored in registered folders, available to Microsoft® Media Center for Windows Vista™ and the client computers on your network.
- **VAIO Media Photo Server™** software delivers image files — Use the Photo Server to deliver pictures for Media Center and the client computers on your network. VAIO Media Photo Server software recognizes .JPG, .JPEG, .BMP, .GIF, and .TIFF file formats.
- **VAIO Media Video Server™** software delivers video files — Video files using DV-AVI, MPEG1, MPEG2, DIVX, and WMV file formats can be stored in registered folders and accessed by the client computers on your network.
- **VAIO Media™ TV Server** software delivers an analog stream — You can connect analog devices, such as a VCR, to a computer equipped with Media Center and stream video to other VAIO computers in your network.

Starting VAIO Media Console™

VAIO Media Console™ software manages all of the Media Servers, enabling you to register and grant access to the client computers on your network. You can also register folders containing video, music, and still image contents. When a folder is registered with VAIO Media Console, the contents can be accessed by the network's client computers and devices.

The VAIO Media Console™ allows you to:

- Check the status of your servers.
- Troubleshoot problems.
- Start and stop all media servers.
- Identify devices registered to the server.
- Register folders.
- Add password protection.
- Enable or disable access by other computers on the network through the Windows® Firewall.
- Run the software when the system starts.

To configure client and server access

- Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar, and then point to **All Programs, VAIO Media, Server Administration**, and click **VAIO Media Console**.

The VAIO Media™ Console software window appears.

Follow the on-screen instructions and the online Help of the VAIO Media Console application for information on how to use the software.

To make additional content available to the network

After creating additional playlists, recorded TV programs, or other video content, you can make them available to client computers on your network.

- 1** Create or add new content, such as playlists, recorded TV programs, and still images, to registered folders.
- 2** Close VAIO Media™ software, if it is running.
- 3** Refresh the VAIO Media™ software. Information about the new content is updated when the server software starts again.

Note: When you stop and restart the server, it displays new connections and refreshes the content on the network computers.

Using VAIO Media™

VAIO Media uses your network servers to view images and video or listen to music

To use VAIO Media

- 1 Click **Start** in the Windows® taskbar, and then point to **All Programs, VAIO Media**, and then click **VAIO Media**. The VAIO Media Main Menu window appears.
- 2 Click the type of content you want to view or listen to (Music, Photo, Video, or TV). VAIO Media software searches for an available VAIO Media computer on your network. Search results include the following
 - If more than one VAIO Media computer is found, the **Please select a server window** appears. Select a VAIO Media computer from the list.
 - If only one VAIO Media computer is found on your network, the **Please select a server window** appears, displaying available music or video contents. A Folder/Photo Lists window appears if you have selected **Photo** from the main menu. A Channel List window appears if you have selected **TV** from the main menu.
- 3 Click the computer, image folder, video cabinet or channel you want to access.

Accessing VAIO Media Help

For more information about using the VAIO Media software program, follow these steps:

- Click **Start** in the Windows taskbar, and point to **All Programs, VAIO Media**, and then click **Help**.

Using an Analog Device for Video Playback

You can stream video content from an analog device, such as a VCR, using the VAIO Media™ TV server software, and watch video playback on your computer or across the network.

To set up an analog device

- 1 Connect one end of the A/V cable to the Video Out port on your analog device.
- 2 Connect the other end of the A/V cable to the Composite Video In jacks, located on the front or back of your computer equipped with Media Center.
- 3 Begin playback using the analog device.
- 4 On your computer, click **Start** on the Windows task bar and point to **All Programs**, **VAIO Media**, and then click **VAIO Media**.
- 5 Click TV. One of the following windows appears:
 - If there are other TV servers that can stream analog input on your network, VAIO Media software displays them on the server list. Click to select the computer equipped with Media Center from the server list.
 - If your computer is the only TV server on the network that can stream analog input, then playback begins.

If the playback window is empty, click **Select Channel**. VAIO Media software assigns a channel to each A/V input jack. You may need to change the channel to view the video.

The Channel list window appears.

Click to change the channel.

Summary

This appendix covered VAIO Media software included with your VGX-XL3 computer for wireless or wired LAN installations.



Appendix C: Setting Up Digital TV

This appendix guides you through the basic steps to use in Microsoft® Media Center in Windows Vista™ for setting up the digital TV tuner in your VGX-XL3 Digital Living System, and also takes you through the steps for setting up the required components such as the internet connection for your computer, and then using MCE for setting up TV stations for Digital TV. You can also refer to the Media Center User Guide for Windows Vista located online in your VGX-XL3 in VAIO Help and Support for detailed instructions.

Advantages of Digital TV with Media Center

Some advantages of Digital TV using Media Center are:

- **Screen Resolution** - Screen resolutions of more six times that of traditional analog programming - super-sharp images.
- **Screen Aspect Ratio** - 16:9 aspect ratio provides a widescreen picture for a more theater-like experience.
- **Dolby Digital Support** - Up to six channels of sound can be encoded into an ATSC OTA (Over The Air) broadcast or digital cable TV.
- **Digital Signal** - No more snowy picture or ghost images
- **Cost** - Hardware needed to receive ATSC Over The Air (OTA) TV broadcasts can be inexpensive. Antennas can be indoor 'rabbit ears' or 'fish bone' type or outdoor roof-/poll-/chimney-mounted type. **Note:** For the best viewing results, it is recommended to place the outdoor antenna as high as possible.

- **Appreciated by All** - A HDTV set is not necessary to see the difference between an analog broadcast and a HD broadcast.
- **Converting HD Content to DVD-Video** - Media Center can back up recorded TV HD content to DVD and make DVD-Video discs of your recorded TV shows. If the show was originally broadcast in a 16:9 widescreen aspect ratio, Media Center will retain that ratio.

Disadvantages of Digital TV with Media Center

- **You either get it or you don't** - If you live in an area that blocks the broadcast signal, your DTV tuner may not be able to receive all or any DTV ATSC stations.
- **DVD-Video is not high definition** - A common misconception is that DVD-Video is high definition. It is not. When Media Center creates a DVD-Video disc from HD television content, the resolution is automatically lowered to analog television standards. The picture is still good, but not as good as the original broadcast(s).
- **Hard disc storage space** - HD content takes up about twice as much hard disc storage space as analog, standard definition content.

Using MCE to Set Up Required Components

- 1 Start Media Center. The Media Center Setup Wizard appears. Select **Next**.



- 2 From the Media Center Setup screen, select **Next**.



- 3 From the Media Center Privacy Policy screen, select **Next**.



- 4 From the Help Improve Media Center screen, select whether or not you would like to join the Customer Experience Improvement Program, then click **Next**.



- 5 From the Enhanced Playback screen, you have the option of selecting to connect to the internet and downloading additional media information.



On the Enhanced Playback screen, select **Yes**, and then click **Next**.

The required components section for setting up Media Center has been completed.



- 6 Click **Next** to continue.

Optional Components

You are now ready to begin the Optional Setup section for Media Center setup. If you wish to bypass this section, select **I am finished**.



7 Select **Configure tuners, TV signal, and Guide**, and then select **Next**.

Important Information about your TV connection and signal

The next few pages will guide you through steps for setting up your cable tuner to receive a TV signal - digital and analog. Before continuing, read the following information:

- The VGX-XL3 digital tuner with a CableCARD™ enables you to watch and record high-definition TV and premium digital cable channels. If you are a cable user and want to use a CableCARD for accessing TV signals, you will need to contact your cable TV provider to order a CableCARD. A CableCARD is a security card that fits in the slot on the digital cable tuner included with your VGX-XL3 and decodes the encrypted digital TV content that your TV provider delivers through the coaxial cable to your home.

If you do not have a CableCARD, you can still use your VGX-XL3 cable tuner to tune authorized digital channels. The steps on the following pages configure your cable tuner to receive a non-premium network cable signal, an NTSC (analog cable) signal or an ATSC (over-the-air) signal.

- If you are a cable user and do not have a set top box, connect the cable from your wall to the cable tuner on your VGX-XL3. You can watch and/or record TV directly from Media Center and take advantage of the Media Center features.
- If you are a cable user with a set top box, connect the cable from your wall to the set top box and the cable from the set top box to the cable tuner on your VGX-XL3. You can view TV directly from the set top box or from Media Center.
- If you connected an ATSC antenna to the cable tuner on your VGX-XL3, you can receive over-the-air high definition signals—if your antenna is within distance of local broadcasts and free of interference.
- **High Definition Note:** Media Center currently supports free ATSC over-the-air high-definition television signals and subscription-based high-definition service. To receive subscription-based high-definition service, including premium programming, you must subscribe to a supported digital cable TV package. For more information about digital cable subscription-based services, contact your local cable TV provider.

Ready to begin

You are now ready to begin setting up your TV to work with Windows Media Center. Windows Media Center recognizes the internal cable TV tuner and presents you with the appropriate wizard (series of screens) for each type of tuner. Read each screen carefully and follow the instructions for setting up the TV tuner.

Using MCE to Set Up Digital TV

- 1 On this screen, make sure the country you reside in displays as the current region.



- 2 Select **Yes** if the Region is correct. Select **No** to select a different region. When complete, select **Next** to continue.
- 3 The Download TV Setp Options downloads the most up-to-date TV setup options for your region. Once completed, the screen changes to **Automatic TV Signal Setup**.



Automatic TV Signal Setup for CableCARD Use

The following steps allow Windows Media Center to automatically activate a TV signal for the first time, without a CableCARD. Follow these steps, and then see “Activate a CableCARD” section later in this appendix if you plan to use a CableCARD.

Note: Optionally, you can have Windows Media Center configure a TV signal manually. You may want to do this if you have a TV signal from a cable set-top box, or standard TV signal and you have installed a digital ATSC antenna. These steps will be discussed later in this process (see step 8).

- 4 From the Automatic TV Signal Setup screen, you can choose to automatically or manually configure your TV set. Windows Media Center will scan for an active TV signal and configure the appropriate settings automatically. Select **Configure my TV signal automatically** and then select **Next**.

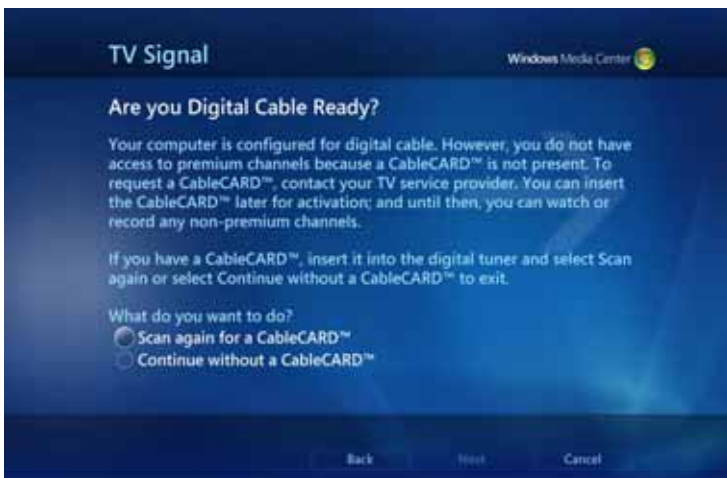


- 5 Confirm that Windows Media Center correctly identifies the signal as “Digital Cable” and lists the correct number of digital tuners. Select **Yes** to configure the TV signal using the displayed results, and then select **Next**.



Note: If Windows Media Center identifies the Digital Cable Tuner as a set top box or displays the incorrect number of connections, check the cable and tuner connections, and select **No, I want to try again**.

- 6 Windows Media Center will ask if you have a CableCARD. Select **Continue without a CableCARD**, and then select **Next**.



If prompted, enter the Digital Cable product key, located on the Certificate of Authenticity (COA) affixed to your VGX-XL3, and then continue.

Set Up the TV Program Guide

After setting up your TV signal for the first time, Windows Media Center will start the Guide setup wizard. You can access the wizard at any time from the Start screen. To do this, in Windows Media Center, select **Tasks > Settings > TV**, and then select **Guide**. Select **Setup Guide Listings**. At the Guide Setup welcome screen, and then select **Next**.



- 7 Go to step 16 for Guide Privacy screen and continue the process from there.

Manual TV Signal Setup

You can manually activate a TV signal for conditions where you have a TV signal from a cable set-top box, or standard TV signal and you have installed a digital ATSC antenna. Follow these steps to configure your TV signal manually.

- 8 From the Windows Media Center **Automatic TV Signal Setup** screen, you can choose to manually configure your TV set.



- 9 Select **I will manually configure my TV signal**, and then select **Next** to continue.
- 10 On this screen, tell the wizard what type of TV signal you have. Also note that if you have a standard TV signal and you have installed a digital ATSC tuner and antenna, the antenna signal will be configured later in this process..



- 11 Select **Cable**, and then select **Next** to continue.
- 12 From this screen, you tell the setup wizard if you are using a set-top box supplied by your provider.



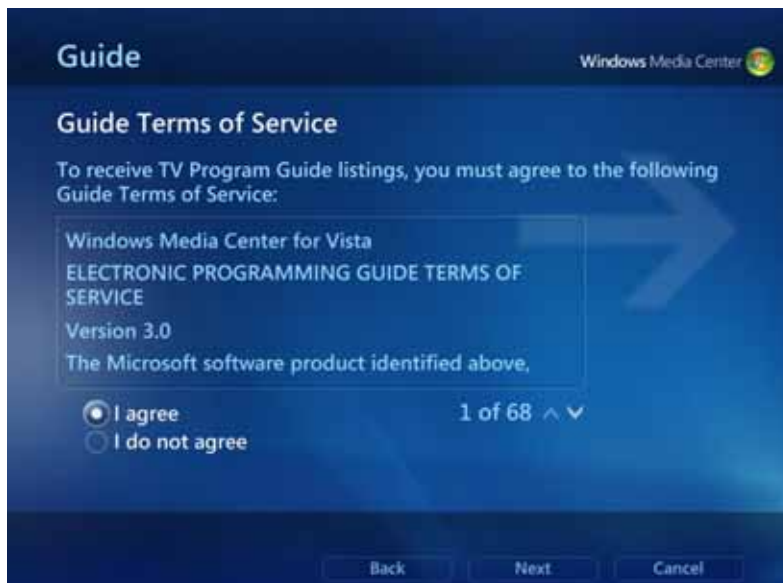
- 13 Select **Yes** or **No**, and then select **Next** to continue
- 14 Before you continue, make sure your ATSC antenna is connected to the ATSC Digital TV tuner.



- 15 Select **Yes** or **No**, and then select **Next** to continue.
- 16 From this screen, you can access the Guide privacy statement and indicate if you want to use the guide. Select **Yes** and then select **Next** to continue.



- 17 This screen below provides direct access for you to read the Guide Terms of Service. Read the Terms of Service and select **I agree/ I do not agree**, and then select **Next** to continue.



- 18 Your ZIP Code is used to determine the correct Guide listings for your area.



- 19 Enter your Zip Code in the box as indicated by the example, and then select **Next** to continue.
- 20 Information about your local TV provider is now needed.



- 21 The setup wizard will automatically connect to the Internet and download this information.

- 22 The screen displays a list of local providers in your area.



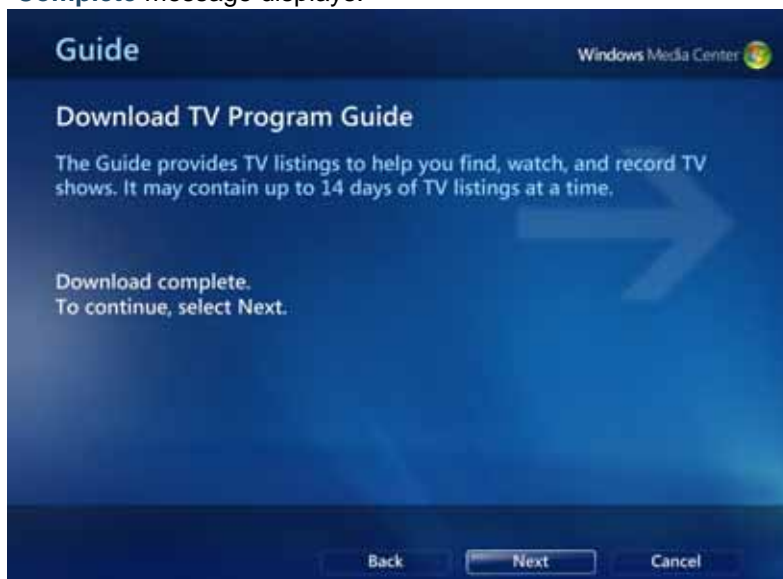
- 23 Select your **provider** from the list, and then select **Next** to continue.

Note: If you have installed a digital antenna to the ATSC digital tuner in your VGX-XL3, you can download TV Guide program information for available digital high-definition channels in your local area. To do so, go to the Windows Media Center **Tasks** menu and select **Settings | TV | Set Up Guide Listings** and complete the Set up Guide Listings Wizard. When you get to the **Select TV Signal Provider** screen, select your provider's **Digital** option and complete the wizard.

- 24 Windows Media Center automatically connects to the Internet to download the TV Program Guide. The screen displays a status bar showing the progress of the download.

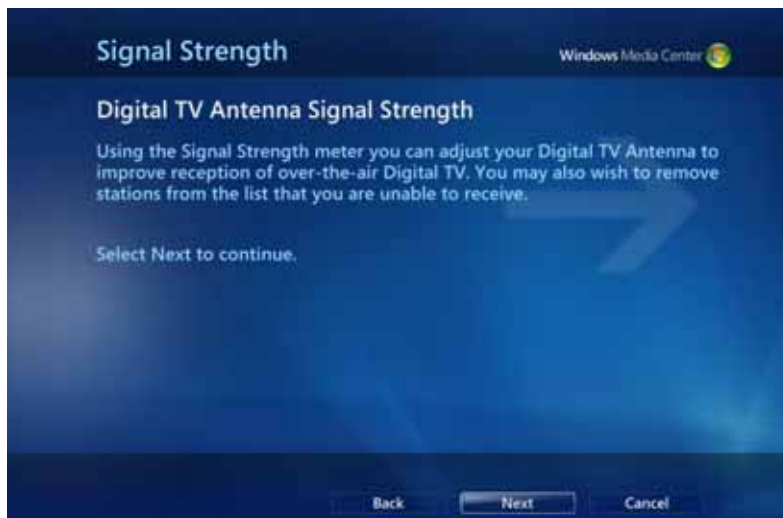


- 25 When all TV Program Guide listings have been downloaded, a **Download Complete** message displays.



- 26 Select **Next** to continue.

- 27 If you previously indicated you installed an over-the-air digital antenna, the setup wizard will now test the signal strength.



- 28 Select **Next** to continue.
- 29 This screen shows available digital TV channels and their associated signal strength.



- 30 Clear a check box to remove unwanted channels, and then select **Next** to continue.

- 31 The Optional Setup screen displays again allowing you to continue with customizing Windows Media Center.



- 32 Select **Optimize how Windows Media Center looks on your display**, and then select **Next** to continue.
- 33 Use this wizard to change settings that affects the way Windows Media Center looks at your display. A Video Guide is included to assist you.



- 34 Watch the video and when complete, select **Next** to continue the Display Configuration wizard. Follow all on-screen instructions.

- 35 When you are done, the **Optional Setup** screen displays again. Select **Set up your speakers**, and then select **Next** to continue.



Note: The VGX-XL3 does not support 7.1 Surround Sound speakers.

- 36 Complete the Speaker Setup wizard. When you are done the Optional Setup screen displays again. Select **Set Up Your Music, Pictures, and Videos Libraries**. Then select **Next** to continue.

Library Setup

In order to access your media files to view pictures, videos, recorded TV, or listen to music you must place the files in a folder watched by Media Center. Media Center watches the following folders located in the following location(s): **Local Disk C: | Users | Sony**. **Note:** The **Public** or shared folders may be located in the same location (Users folder) or on a separate partition on your hard disk drive, for example: **Local Disk D: | Users | Public**.

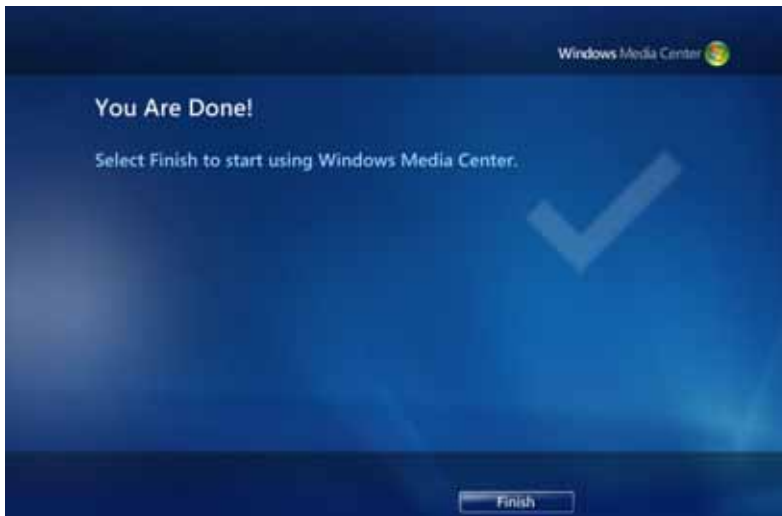
You can add media files to watched folders in the following ways:

- Copy files or folders directly to watched folders using Windows Explorer.
- Download media files (Internet, Music CD's, Video) directly to watched folders.
- Add additional folders, or shared folders for Media Center to watch by pressing the **MORE Info (i)** button and selecting **Library Setup** from the menu. Then follow the on-screen instructions.

- 37 From Media Center, you can add folders to watch or stop watching folders.



- 38 Complete the Library Setup wizard. Please follow the on-screen instructions. Select **Next** to continue.



- 39 Select **Finish** to return to the Media Center **Start** menu.

This completes the Windows Media Setup Wizard.

Once you have completed the Windows Media Center Setup Wizard, you should take the time to explore all of the Windows Media Center setting menus. As you explore these menu, you will find settings options that will greatly enhance your digital media experience in Windows Media Center. To locate these menus, go to the Windows Media Center **Start** menu and select **Tasks**, then **Settings**.

- 40 From the Signal Strength screen, click **Finish** if you are satisfied with the selected channel signal strength and exit. Click **Back** to return to the Windows Media Center signal strength meter.

Activating a CableCARD

Installing and activating a CableCARD™ typically requires an on-site visit from a cable technician. Contact your cable service provider to get and install a CableCARD. Once activated, the CableCARD cannot be transferred to another device, such as a TV or set-top box.

When the CableCARD is installed, ensure that your cable service technician understands that the installation is on a Windows Media Center system and provide any requested information. On the Windows Media Center Start screen, select **Tasks > Settings**, select **TV**, and then select **Set Up TV Signal**. Follow the on-screen steps to set up a TV signal with a CableCARD.

When the CableCARD is activated, configure Program Guide listings. On the Windows Media Center Start screen, select **Tasks > Settings**. Click **TV**, and then click **Guide**. Click **Set Up Guide Listings** and follow the steps on-screen.

Creating DVD-Video from HD Recorded Content

The following procedure provides information on how to make a DVD-Video disc from ATSC OTA-recorded high definition TV content using Media Center.

Important: Sony supports the lawful use of technology and does not endorse or encourage the use of our products for purposes other than those permitted by law. TV programs and commercial DVDs that have been encrypted (protected) by the broadcaster cannot be copied and played back on any other player other than the one recorded to.

The CD/DVD function has been grouped together with other common tasks in a single, convenient location on the Media Center Start menu called **Tasks**.

- 1 In Media Center, go to **Tasks**.
- 1 From **Tasks**, toggle to **burn cd/dvd**.

Once you select **burn cd/dvd**, a series of screens appear instructing you to do the following:

- Insert writable media compatible with your CD or DVD recorder.
- Select a disc format.
- Name the CD/DVD.

- Browse to select the media you wish to write to disc.
- Review and edit your choices before writing to disc.
- Write to disc.

Create CD/DVD Notes

- High definition content recorded through the ATSC digital TV tuner card tends to be encoded in display resolutions much higher than DVD-Video.
- When burning high definition content to DVD-Video, the resulting disc is no longer considered to be high definition. Remember, DVD-Video is not, and never was, considered high definition.
- If the high definition content was originally encoded with a 16:9 ratio, Media Center will retain that ratio so that the resulting display continues to look correct on widescreen television sets.

Frequently Asked Questions

1 What is the Digital Cable Tuner installed in my VGX-XL3?

The Digital Cable Tuner is a hardware device designed using standards written by the CableLabs nonprofit research and development consortium. Digital Cable Tuner devices receive protected digital cable TV content using authorized CableCARDs provided by cable TV operators.

2 How is a Digital Cable Tuner different from other TV tuners?

When a CableCARD™ is present, the Digital Cable Tuner is able to receive premium content that has been protected with conditional access from United States cable operators. The CableCARD that plugs into a Digital Cable Tuner is programmed so that the cable subscriber receives subscription services for which they have paid. This may include premium Standard Definition (SD) and High Definition (HD) TV programming.

3 I have Digital Cable at Home (for example, Comcast), do I have to use my digital cable with CableCARD to use the VGX-XL3 Digital Cable Tuner?

No. When a CableCARD is not present, the Digital Cable Tuner device will function as a NTSC or an ATSC TV tuner.

4 What is the expected behavior for a Digital Cable Tuner when a CableCARD is not present?

When a CableCARD is not present, the Digital Cable Tuner device will function as a NTSC or an ATSC TV tuner. The Digital Cable Tuner device will receive any analog or cable channels that do not require a subscriber fee, but

will not receive any digital cable or premium content, such as Home Box Office service or pay-per-view.

5 I purchased an indoor or outdoor HD antenna, but how do I know which direction to face the antenna to?

Visit the website URL <http://www.antennaweb.org> to obtain directions on where your digital antenna should point.

There is also an option to bring up your location map that will have a drawing showing the directions and what channels are available in that direction, use a compass and this map to align your antenna for the best signal reception.

6 I still have my old antenna on the roof. Can I use it to pick up ATSC channels?

You should be able to; ATSC uses the same frequencies as analog NTSC TV with an antenna. You may need to adjust your roof antenna and refer to <http://www.antennaweb.org> for map orientation of your local ATSC stations.

7 How can I increase my signal strength?

In some cases a signal amplifier can be paired with the antenna to increase signal strength.

8 Can I add a splitter to split the cable?

If you need to split the signal, use an HDTV-compliant splitter of at least 5 - 1100Mhz. Make sure that you are not getting a combiner. Though combiners and splitters look very similar, if not identical, a combiner will not properly split the signal.

9 Why can't I receive all of the channels in the MCE TV guide?

You might not be able to receive all channels broadcasted in your area if the antenna does not receive the appropriate range of signal on the MHz scale for digital TV channels, is located near any tall buildings or hills that obstruct the line of sight to the broadcasting antenna, or if you are too far away from the broadcasting signal.

10 Where should I check online to see the TV listings besides Windows media Center TV guide?

For free over-the-air Digital TV programming schedules, visit these websites <http://www.checkhd.com>, or <http://www.titantv.com>.

This completes the Setting Up Digital TV Appendix. If you still have unanswered questions, go to VAIO® Help and Support and select a support option.



Appendix D: Hard Disk Drive Recovery

Overview

The VAIO Recovery Center contains various types of tools or programs to help you manage and maintain your Sony VGX-XL3 Digital Living System. The tools provide options to restore your computer to the original factory settings, reinstall specific factory-installed software applications and drivers, and assist in the configuration of RAID arrays for your hard disk.

This appendix provides some general introductory-type information on the VAIO Recovery Center. For detailed information on VAIO Recovery Center, see the VAIO Recovery Center User Guide located online in VAIO Help and Support. The following list of topics are contained in the VAIO Recovery Center User Guide:

- VAIO Hardware Diagnostics
- Reinstall Programs or Drivers
- Restore C: Drive
- Restore Complete System
- Create Recovery Discs
- Wipe and Erase Data
- Rescue Data
- Windows® Backup and Restore - This is a Windows tool that is available to you in the VAIO Recovery Center.

Before you begin

Due to the resolution constraints from using Component Video on some standard definition TVs, if there is a need to recover your hard disk drive to its original out-of-the-box state, Sony recommends using the supplied HDMI cable and the HDMI-to-DVI adapter (if needed) with a display that supports HDMI or DVI-D input.

There are many things that can affect your computer's performance, such as adding/removing software, the working condition of peripherals, and a virus downloaded from the Internet. If you are experiencing difficulties with your VGX-XL3 performance, it can be very difficult to troubleshoot. You may decide that the best option is to restore your system back to its original factory settings.

Note: Turn off screen savers and power management before you begin any of the VAIO® Hard Disk Drive Recovery options.

Before considering any of the options available in VAIO® Recovery, please review the following support site for the latest up-to-date information specific to your computer model:

www.esupport.sony.com/EN/VAIO



Appendix E: RAID Configuration

Overview

RAID (Redundant Array of Independent Disks) refers to the combining of two or more independent hard disks working in parallel to form a single logical array that stores data along with additional redundancy information.

This appendix provides some general introductory-type information on RAID. For detailed information on RAID, see the RAID Systems User Guide located online in VAIO Help and Support. The list of topics in the RAID Systems User Guide include:

- RAID Levels
- Choose a RAID Configuration
- Before you begin
- RAID Configuration Wizard
- VAIO® Recovery Wizard
- Intel® Storage Utility
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Trouble Shooting
- RAID Glossary
- Support Resources

Why Use RAID?

The main objectives of RAID are to improve data availability and security. With everything from basic file and print services to e-Commerce and important business applications running on server-based networks, reliable and secure access to data is becoming a critical issue for everyone.

A RAID system can improve your VGX-XL3 Digital Living System's performance by improving data availability and security. RAID prevents

downtime in the event of a hard disk failure by storing your data on multiple hard disks.

Note: Sony recommends using hard disk drives that are identical in size and manufacture.

Benefits of RAID

The degree that you realize the various benefits listed below depends on the exact type or level of RAID that you choose. However, you will always get some combination of the following benefits:

Higher Data Security

Most RAID levels provide protection for the data stored on the array through the use of redundancy. This means that the data on the array can withstand the failure of one hard disk (or sometimes more) without any data loss, and without requiring any data to be restored from backup.

Fault Tolerance

RAID implementations that include redundancy provide you with a more reliable overall storage system than can be achieved by a single disk. This means there is a lower chance of the storage system (as a whole) failing due to hardware failures.

Improved Availability

Availability refers to your data being present and ready to use. A RAID system improves availability by providing fault tolerance and by providing special features that allow for recovery from hardware faults without disruption.

Increased and Intergrated Capacity

RAID systems increase capacity by turning a number of smaller drives into a larger array, thus combining or adding their individual storage capacities together. This facilitates applications that require large amounts of contiguous disk space, and also makes disk space management simpler. (However, a percentage of total capacity is lost to overhead or redundancy in most implementations.)

Improved Performance

RAID systems improve performance by allowing the controller to take full advantage of the capabilities of multiple hard disk to get around performance-limiting issues that plague individual hard disks. Different RAID implementations improve performance in different ways and to different degrees, but all improve performance in some way.



Appendix F: Troubleshooting

This section provides you with answers and additional information to questions and issues that may arise during the set up and operation of the VAIO® VGX-XL3 Digital Living System™. If the answers to your questions are not contained in this appendix, go to Help and Support for additional help.

The Troubleshooting appendix is divided into the following sections:

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Screen/Display	85
Wireless Keyboard/Touchpad	87
Optical Drive	89
Hard Disk	90
Software Limitations	90
MCE Starting Up	91
MCE Live TV Issues	91
Sound Issues	91
Wireless LAN	92

DVD Playback Limitations

Event:

What resolution does my DVD playback?

Comment:

- For HDMI™ or DVI connection - DVD playback works in all resolutions (480p/720p). Note: Output of 1080i resolutions are not supported.
- Component Video connection DVD playback ONLY works in 480i/480p resolutions.
- You cannot view copy-protected DVD through component video connection with a higher resolution than 480i/480p due to Macrovision analog copy protection requirements.

Power/Start

Event:

Power is not on and green power lamp is not lit.

Comment:

Confirm that the VGX-XL3 computer's power cord is inserted firmly into an outlet.

- Confirm that all of the cables are connected well.
- Remove all the power cables connected to this device, and reconnect them again after waiting five minutes, then turn the power on again.
- If the device does not run after doing the above, please contact VAIO® Customer Support.

Event:

The power is turned on and the power lamp (green) of the VGX-XL3 computer is on, but there is no display on the screen.

Comment:

- Make sure the proper input for the display unit (TV, DVI monitor) is selected.
- Please confirm that the display unit (TV, DVI monitor) power is turned on.
- When connecting to a TV, confirm that your TV supports either 720p or 1080i resolutions.

If nothing is displayed on the screen after a time, please follow the procedures below.

- Make sure the VGX-XL3 computer is connected to the TV proper input.
- Hold the power button of this device for at least six seconds, make sure the power lamp turns off and then turn the power on again.
- If nothing is displayed after the above operation, hold the power button of this device again for at least six seconds, make sure that the power lamp turns off, then remove all cables connected to this device, and re-connect after waiting five minutes and then turn the power on again.

Event:

Unable to shutdown the VGX-XL3 computer.

Comment:

Methods vary depending on the conditions when the power will not turn off. Confirm the following and follow the procedures below.

- Quit all software you are using, then try to turn off the power again.
- If peripheral devices such as printers or USB devices, etc. are connected, or if a network is used, make sure that they are not connected and then turn off the power.

Sometimes when Windows is communicating with a peripheral device or network, the power can't be turned off.

Event:

Sometimes when the power is turned on a message is displayed and Windows does not load.

Comment:

- Remove any third-party USB devices including floppy drives and printers.
- When "Bad CMOS Checksum" is displayed, the battery needs to be replaced due to the draining of the battery in this device.

Please contact the VAIO Customer Support for replacing the battery.

- When "CMOS Checksum Error" is displayed, the BIOS configuration contents may be damaged.

To return the BIOS to the original configuration, perform the following steps.

- 1** Press the power button, and when the VAIO® logo is displayed on the screen, press the F2 key on the keyboard. The BIOS setup menu runs and the "BIOS SETUP UTILITY" screen is displayed.
- 2** Press the F5 key. The message "Load Setup Defaults" displays.
- 3** Press the Left Arrow or Right Arrow key and select **OK**, then press the **Enter** key. All the configuration items return to the original configuration.
- 4** Press the F10 key (Save and Exit). The message "Save configuration changes and exit now?" is displayed.
- 5** Press the Left Arrow or Right Arrow key and select **OK**, then press the **Enter** key. The changed configuration is saved, the BIOS setup menu ends and Windows Vista starts.

Event:

How do I know if the battery level of the keyboard is sufficient?

Comment:

The level of the batteries in the keyboard can be checked using the battery indicator located on the upper right portion of the keyboard.

Note: Turn off the power to the keyboard when you replace the batteries for the keyboard.

Event:

Windows operation becomes unstable.

Comment:

Quit the software you are using and restart the VGX-XL3 computer.

If this device doesn't restart, turn the power off by holding the power button of this device for at least six seconds. The power lamp turns off when the power is off. If the power lamp does not turn off and blinks in orange (standby mode), try to turn off the power again by holding the power button for at least six seconds. However, the file you are creating or editing may not be usable if you turn off the power using this method.

Password

Event:

Unable to log on to Microsoft® Windows Vista™ operating system.

Comment:

- The password is case-sensitive. Confirm the password and re-enter.
- If there is an account that was created by a user with administrative privileges, change the password from a "Computer Administrator" account other than that of the user who forgot the password.

Screen/Display

Event:

My display distorts for a few seconds while system starts up, or resumes from standby/hibernation.

Comment:

This is normal. The display may distort for a few seconds while system starts up, restarts, resumes from standby/hibernation when connected to a TV.

Event:

My MCE screen flickers sometimes.

Comment:

The MCE screen will flicker when it's in a windowed screen and a window or a balloon pops up in the taskbar. You can close the pop-up window in the task bar or maximize the MCE screen.

Event:

Colors on the screen are not displayed clearly,

Comment:

- Turn off the power, and then restart the VGX-XL3 computer.
- Check the other inputs on your display to make sure the display is working properly.

Event:

The screen is frozen

Comment:

- Verify the keyboard is turned on, the battery level is sufficient, and the keyboard is connected to the PC (antenna icon on the keyboard display).

Restart this device according to the following procedure.

- 1 Hold down the **Ctrl** key and the **Alt** key and press **Delete**. The Windows Task Manager screen displays.
- 2 Select the software application that displays as "Not responding" in the "Windows Task Manager" screen, and click **End Task**.
- 3 Click **Turn Off** from the Shut Down menu. After the power to the VGX-XL3 computer has been off approximately 30 seconds, turn the power on again.

Note: If this device does not restart by following the above procedures, turn off the power by holding the power button of this device for more than 6 seconds. The power lamp turns off when the power is off. When the power lamp is on (orange), turn off the power again by holding the power button for at least four seconds. Files you are creating or editing may not be usable using this method to turn off the power to the VGX-XL3 computer.

Event:

The screen is dark

Comment:

- Adjust the brightness of TV. Adjusting the brightness will vary depending on the type of TV. For details, please refer to the TV users manual.
- Verify if other inputs on the TV are dark, if they are please refer to the TV user manual

Event:

Pictures on the TV screen are distorted

Comment:

- Confirm that this device and the display device are properly connected.
- When the TV is connected using a HDMI™ cable, make sure to use an output format that matches the compatibility of the TV you are using.

- When the TV is connected using a component cable, make sure to use a resolution that matches the component input of the TV you are using.

Event:

When the TV or display is connected to the HDMI OUT (HDMI output) connector, the image does not display.

Comment:

- Re-connect the HDMI cable and make sure your TV/monitor has the correct video input selected.
- It may be connected to a device that does not support HDCP.
Connect to a device which supports HDCP.
- When a HDMI-DVI adapter is used, the TV or display may not be supported by the HDMI-DVI adapter.
Connect a TV or display which supports the HDMI-DVI adapter.
- Restart your computer system in case there was an operating system malfunction.

Wireless Keyboard/Touchpad Issues

Event:

My keyboard stops working after a period of time.

Comment:

- The keyboard/touchpad will sleep when it is not in use to save power. You must press any key on the keyboard to resume the connection. Also, check that the batteries are working.
- Make sure you are within range of the computer (recommended under 15ft).

Event:

My keyboard works, but not the touchpad (or vice versa).

Comment:

- 1 Verify that the keyboard power switch is on and that the pointing device power switch on the back of the keyboard is on.

- 2 Re-connect the keyboard/touchpad to the VGX-XL3 computer by pressing the Connect buttons (on the back of the keyboard and the front panel of VGX-XL3 at the same time and hold for a few seconds.

Event:

Don't know how to enter text using the VAIO® Remote Control.

Comment:

Refer to the Media Center User Guide for Windows Vista™.

Event:

Cannot enter text when I press the keys on the keyboard.

Comment:

- Make sure that the "Num Lock" indicator on the upper right keyboard is not displayed.
- Make sure the power switch is ON for the keyboard.
- Check the battery level on the keyboard display.
- Make sure you are within range of the computer (recommended under 15ft).

Event:

Cannot use the keyboard

Comment:

Reponse methods vary depending on the reason the keyboard is not able to be used. Confirm the following and follow the procedures below.

Usage environment

The distance between this machine and the keyboard must be within about 10m. If metal is near the keyboard, communication card may be affected. It's best to maintain a clear line of sight between the keyboard and computer for maximum distance.

The keyboard operates at 2.4 GHz. If a wireless device which uses the same 2.4 GHz, such as a wireless LAN, is used nearby, it may not operate properly.

Power ON

Make sure the Power switch on the keyboard is turned on. When you are not using the keyboard, turn off the power to preserve the batteries.

Event:

Check whether keys such as Caps Lock and NumLk are enabled.

Comment:

You can check with the various indicators on the upper right of the keyboard.

Event:

Cannot use the pointing device.

Comment:

Make sure your pointing device is not disabled.

Refer to the Setting up the Keyboard topic in Chapter 1 of this guide.

Event:

I want to disable the pointing device.

Comment:

Turn the Pointing Device switch on the back side of the keyboard to "OFF".

Optical Drive

Event:

Cannot use 8cm discs in my VGX-XL3 computer's optical drive.

Comment:

The drive only accepts 12cm discs. Use the included 8cm to 12cm adapter before inserting into the computer optical drive. Do not insert the 8cm disc directly or the disc may become stuck and not eject.

Event:

Cannot write to the 8cm disc with the 8cm disc adapter.

Comment:

The 8cm disc adapter (included) can be used to insert 8cm discs but the disc can only be read and not written to.

Hard Disk

Event:

An error occurred in the initialization of the hard disk.

Comment:

- The files on the hard disk cannot be recovered. This device must be recovered by using the recovery function in the hard disk or your own recovery DVDs that you have previously created.

Event:

Cannot start-up from the hard disk.

Comment:

Remove any media from the memory card reader and disconnect all third-party devices such as scanners, printers, floppy drives, etc. and try again.

- If the hard disk does not start-up with above process, you may need to perform hard disk drive recovery.

See the Recovery Center Guide in Help and Support for additional information on hard disk recovery.

Event:

Available hard disk space is low.

Comment:

Clean up the disk.

Temporary files and backup files are automatically created to make Windows' processes faster, so the free space on the hard disk is decreased. If you clean up the disk, the temporary files, etc. are deleted and the free space is increased.

Software Limitations

Event:

My software application does not launch.

Comment:

Some software applications require a minimum resolution higher than your current resolution setting. Please check back to our support website at <http://www.sony.com/pcsupport/> for software update.

Event:

Some of my shortcuts in the start menu are not visible.

Comment:

At 480i/480p resolution, the Start Menu gets cut off and some of the shortcuts are not visible. You can switch the Start Menu to Classic Start Menu will help alleviate this but not complete resolve the issue. For the best experience, it is recommended to connect the VGX-XL3 to a high definition TV or computer monitor.

MCE Starting Up

Event:

MCE appears to be unresponsive after boot up.

Comment:

Even though MCE is launched, there are still other programs in the background that have not finished loading as well as other MCE processes that need to load as well.

MCE Live TV Issues

Event:

Can the VGX-XL3 computer support High Definition broadcast stations?

Comment:

The VGX-XL3 TV supports HD broadcast stations via over-the-air ATSC content and cable access using a CableCARD™.

Sound Issues

Event:

The sound coming from HDMI™ or S/PDIF does not work.

Comment:

Check the Sound Reality Control Panel.

- Right-click the speaker icon in the Notification Area and select 'Playback Device.'

Make sure the appropriate boxes (HDMI or S/PDIF) are checked. (Go to Chapter 2: Setting Up the VGX-XL3 System. Step 3: Connecting Your Home Theater/Speakers.

Wireless LAN

Event:

Cannot use the wireless LAN.

Comment:

Make sure that the wireless LAN function set up correctly and is turned on.
Refer to the Appendix A: Wireless Local Area Network in this guide.

Event:

This device can't communicate with the wireless LAN access point (can't access the Internet)

Comment

- Check the items in "Can't use the wireless LAN" above.
- Make sure that the power is turned on to the wireless LAN access point.
- Check the settings for the wireless LAN access point.

Refer to the Appendix A: Wireless Local Area Network in this guide.

- Check if this device and the wireless LAN access point are connected.

Refer to the Appendix A: Wireless Local Area Network in this guide.

- The communication distance between the devices varies depending on the actual distance between the communication devices, the surrounding environment such as obstacles, the equipment configuration, the radio wave condition, the presence of walls, materials, and software used, etc.

Move the location of this device or the wireless LAN antenna for this device, or bring both communication devices closer together.

Check if the wireless LAN access point displays in the "Choose a wireless network" list on the "Wireless Network Connection" screen.

Event:

Can't play video or audio received through the wireless LAN. Stuttering is occurring or the communication speed is slow.

Comment:

- Change the environment for receiving the signal by changing the location of this device or bringing it closer to the wireless LAN device.

The communication speed for the wireless LAN or the communication conditions vary depending on the actual distance between the communication devices, the surrounding environment such as obstacles, the equipment configuration, the signal quality, the presence of walls, materials, and software used, etc.

- There is a possibility of access collisions in accessing the wireless LAN access point.

Try to access again in a little while.

- Change the channel setting for the access point. The effect of band interference may disappear and this may help to improve the communication speed.

The communication speed for IEEE802.11g may slow down automatically because IEEE802.11g retains compatibility with IEEE802.11b under mixed environments with IEEE802.11b.

Also, channel band interference may cause a slow down in the communication speed for IEEE802.11b devices.

- Set the wireless channel for the wireless LAN access point if it is using multiple AP's or used with other wireless LAN access points. Refer to the user's manual that came with the wireless LAN access point for detailed settings.
- Make sure that a microwave is not used nearby.

The 2.4 GHz band used by IEEE802.11b/g is a signal band shared with various devices. Using a microwave nearby when the wireless LAN is communicating may cause a decrease in communication speed and the communication distance, or interrupt the communication depending on the circumstances.